

USS FRANK KNOX (DD 742)
FPO San Francisco 96601

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20 March 1970

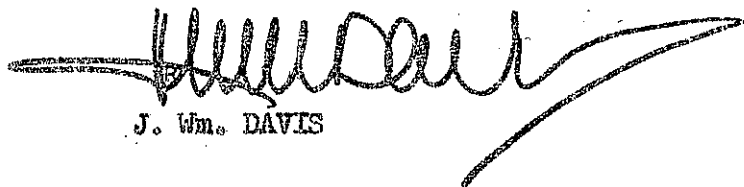
From: Commanding Officer, USS FRANK KNOX (DD 742)
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09B9)

Subj: Command History; submission of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) Chronology of outstanding events
(2) Basic Narrative
(3) Documentary Annexes

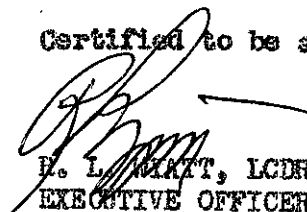
1. Enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded herewith in accordance with reference (a).


J. Wm. DAVIS

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D. L. WATT, LCDR, USN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

USS FRANK KNOX (DD-742) CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

CALENDAR YEAR 1969

1-5 JAN At the opening of the year 1969 FRANK KNOX was moored at her homeport of San Diego, California at the U.S. Naval Station. Commanded by CDR J. G. BAKER, USN, she had been making final preparations since 9 December for her deployment to the Western Pacific.

6 JAN Underway for the Western Pacific via Lahaina, Hawaii and Pearl Harbor, Midway Island, Guam, and Subic Bay.

11 JAN Inport Lahaina, Hawaii for R&R.

11-15 JAN Inport Pearl Harbor for predeployment briefings.

18 JAN Fuel stop at Midway.

24 JAN Fuel stop at Guam.

28-31 JAN Inport Subic Bay, Philippines to take on supplies and ammunition.

2 FEB Arrived on the gun line off QuiNhon, III Corps area of South Vietnam to provide Naval gunfire support for the Capital Division, Republic of Korea.

18-23 FEB Inport Subic Bay, Philippines for upkeep.

26 FEB Arrived on PIRAZ STATION, Tonkin Gulf to serve with USS STERRETT (DLG-31).

5 MAR Arrived on South SAR Station, Tonkin Gulf to serve with USS MAHAN (DLG-11).

9 MAR Returned to PIRAZ STATION, Tonkin Gulf to serve in company with USS CHICAGO (CG-11).

26 MAR-8 APR Inport Sasebo, Japan for upkeep.

11-14 APR Inport Subic Bay, Philippines.

16-17 APR Inport Hong Kong, China for R&R.

18 APR Arrived on YANKEE STATION, Tonkin Gulf to serve in company with USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63).

9 MAY Rear Admiral Mason FREEMAN, COMCRUDESPAC, Arrived onboard for a visit.

16-29 MAY Inport Sasebo, Japan for R&R.

31 MAY Fuel stop at Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

1-6 JUN Inport Hong Kong, China for R&R.

8-12 JUN Entered Danang Harbor, South Vietnam to provide Naval gunfire support for the 26th Marine Regiment.

1 JUN Entered the L-107 SAM SPECIAL ZONE off Vung Ta, South Vietnam to provide Naval gunfire support for the Naval Advisory Groups.

19 JUN Underway for homeport of San Diego, California via Subic Bay, Manus Island, Australia, Pago Pago, Samoa, Hayman Island, and Pearl Harbor.

22-24 JUN Inport Subic Bay, Philippines.

29 JUN Fuel stop at Manus Island.

2-4 JUL Inport Townsville, Australia for R&R.

5-6 JUL Inport Hayman Island for R&R.

8-11 JUL Inport Brisbane, Australia for R&R.

16-17 JUL Fuel stop at Pago Pago, Samoa.

22 JUL Fuel stop at Pearl Harbor.

27 JUL Arrived at U.S. Naval Station, San Diego, California.

23 JUL-1 SEP Leave and upkeep.

2-4 SEP Underway for San Clemente Island. Commenced Naval Gunfire Support exercises to provide training for U.S. Army gunfire spotters.

5 SEP Underway for Southern California OPAREA. Conducted Z-1-AA to provide training for students from the Fleet Training Center.

6-7 SEP Inport San Diego, California. Public visit ship at Broadway Pier.

9-12 SEP Underway for Southern California OPAREA. Commenced plane guard duty with USS HORNET (CVS-12).

12-15 SEP Inport San Diego, California.

13-17 SEP Underway for Southern California OPAREA. Served as Submarine target vessel for the USS SCULPIN (SSN-590).

18 SEP-23 NOV Inport San Diego, California for upkeep and tender availability.

10 OCT CDR J. Wm. DAVIS, USN, relieved CDR J. G. PAKER, USN, as Commanding Officer.

7 NOV LCDR P. A. PAKER, USN, departed for next duty station, after being relieved as Executive Officer by LCDR R. L. WYATT, USN.

24-26 NOV Underway for Southern California OPAREA. Commenced duty of Engineering School Ship conducting various engineering drills for students from Fleet Training Center.

27-30 NOV Inport San Diego, California.

1-5 DEC Underway for Southern California OPAREA to serve as Engineering School Ship.

6-7 DEC Inport San Diego, California. Public visit ship at Broadway Pier.

8 DEC Underway for Southern California OPAREA. Conducted Z-24-G calibration shoot.

9-11 DEC= Engineering School Ship.

12-15 DEC Inport San Diego, California.

16-17 DEC Underway for San Clemente Island. Conducted FORACF calibration exercises.

18-31 DEC Inport San Diego, California for upkeep.

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NARRATIVE HISTORY OF USS FRANK KNOX (DD-742) . . . 1969

The beginning of 1969 found USS FRANK KNOX moored at the U.S. Naval Station in her homeport of San Diego, California. Under the command of CDR J. G. BAKER, she had been in the process of making final preparations to deploy to the Western Pacific since December 9, 1968.

On 6 January FRANK KNOX departed for the Western Pacific with several short stops while enroute. On 11 January she put into Lahaina, Hawaii for a day of rest and recreation. From the 12th to the 15th she was in Pearl Harbor for a series of predeployment briefings. Next in succession came two quick refueling stops at Midway and Guam. The final stop was at Subic Bay from the 29th to the 31st where supplies and ammunition were taken onboard.

FRANK KNOX arrived on the gun line off Qui Nhon in the II Corps area of South Vietnam on 2 February. For the next two weeks she provided Naval Gunfire Support for the Capital Division of the Republic of Korea. During this period a total of 1571 rounds were fired.

After a period of upkeep in Subic Bay from 18 to 23 February, FRANK KNOX proceeded to PIRAZ STATION (Positive Identification Radar Advisory Zone) in Tonkin Gulf. Arriving on 26 February she performed the mission of defending the main station ship from attack by any enemy surface craft that might come into the area. FRANK KNOX first served with USS STERRETT (DLG-31), then with USS CHICAGO (CG-11). In between was a short interval 5 to 9 March when she proceeded to South SAR Station serving with USS MAHAN (DLG-11).

At the end of March FRANK KNOX proceeded to Sasebo, Japan for 13 days of rest and recreation between the dates of 26 March and 8 April.

FRANK KNOX left Sasebo with the USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) bound for Hong Kong with a short stop at Subic Bay. However, the rest and recreation period at that British Crown Colony was cut short by events in Korea where the Communist North Koreans shot down one of the reconnaissance planes of the United States. Because of this the Seventh Fleet was mobilized and FRANK KNOX left Hong Kong only twenty-seven hours after having arrived.

By 18 April she was on YANKEE STATION in Tonkin Gulf alternating as plane guard for KITTY HAWK with USS BLACK (DD-666). She remained on this duty for the next month. During this period FRANK KNOX performed an errand of mercy for a Nationalist Chinese fisherman who had badly injured his hand. When his boat approached the ship he was taken onboard, heloed to the KITTY HAWK, treated for his injury, returned to FRANK KNOX, and placed back onboard his boat. A great aid in accomplishing this mission was LTJG YI, a guest observer onboard from the Navy of the Republic of Korea, who served as an interpreter for the fisherman and his shipmates. The day after this event on 9 May, Rear Admiral Mason FUSEMAN, Commander Cruiser Destroyer Force, USS Pacific Fleet, came on board for a visit.

From May 16 to May 29, FRANK KNOX was once again in Sasebo for another period of rest and recreation. On 1 June she was back in Hong Kong for a 6 day period of rest and recreation after making a short refueling stop at Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Enclosure (2)

On 8 June FRANK KNOX was back on the gun line, this time in Danang Harbor providing Naval Gunfire Support for the 26th Regiment of the United States Marine Corps. On 13 June she moved south to the RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE off Vung Tau, South Vietnam to provide Naval Gunfire Support for the Naval Advisory Group. A total of 1536 rounds of ammunition were fired during this period.

FRANK KNOX departed the Western Pacific on 19 June. After short stops at Subic Bay and Manus Island she arrived in Townsville, Australia on 2 July for a period of rest and recreation. From there she went to Hayman Island and Brisbane, Australia for the same reason.

On 11 July FRANK KNOX headed east towards home, stopping only at Pago Pago in American Samoa and Pearl Harbor for fuel. On 27 July she tied up at the U.S. Naval Station in her homeport of San Diego, California. She remained there for the next month for a well deserved period of leave and upkeep.

The month of August was spent with a period of leave and upkeep. Many of the crew took leave, while others used the time to attend various schools.

For the first half of September FRANK KNOX was back to work. She performed two assignments as Gunnery School Ship, the first from 2 September to 4 September when she provided services for Army students in training as gunfire spotters. For this she went to San Clemente Island and fired shore bombardment exercises. For the second assignment enlisted students came aboard from the Fleet Training Center and manned one of the gun mounts. They then fired a Z-1-AA air shoot to gain practical experience in handling the mount.

For the weekend of 6 and 7 September, the ship was berthed at Broadway Pier in downtown San Diego allowing the public to come aboard. Over 1400 hundred people took advantage of this opportunity to inspect a fighting ship of the U.S. Navy.

The following week found the FRANK KNOX at sea again, providing plane guard services for the USS HORNET (CVS-12) off the California coast from 9 to 12 September. On 16 to 17 September she was underway providing services as the submarine target vessel for the USS SCULPIN (SSN-590).

Then followed a lengthy period of tender availability from 18 September to 23 November with the USS SAMUEL GOMPERS (AD-17). During this period much needed maintenance was performed which required the assistance of the tender and the ship's force did much on its own.

On October 10 CDR J. Wm. DAVIS relieved CDR J. G. BAKER as commanding officer of the FRANK KNOX. CDR DAVIS came to her from the USS DIXIE (AD-14) after having served onboard her as the Executive Officer. CDR BAKER left the ship after having ably served as her skipper since December of 1967.

November witnessed a change of the ship's Executive Officer. On 1 November LCDR R. L. WYATT reported onboard and on 7 November he relieved LCDR P. A. BAKER as the second in command. LCDR BAKER then departed for his next assignment.

The next at sea period for the ship was from 23 November to 11 December when it had the assignment of Engineering School Ship. This involved going out each day with a group of students who were taking a prospective engineering officer's course and allowing them to gain practical experience in running a ship's plant. For three weeks the FRANK KNOX put to sea at 0800 in the morning and returned to San Diego by 1600. On 8 December, the ship was able to conduct a Z-24-G calibration shoot when it had a day off as School Ship.

The FRANK KNOX went to sea for the last time in 1969 on 16 and 17 December. She sailed to San Clemente Island where FORACS calibrations were conducted on all radar and sonar equipment onboard.

As 1969 closed the FRANK KNOX was once again in her homeport of San Diego at the U.S. Naval Station. Looking back it had been a busy year. The ship had been called upon to perform many tasks and she had not failed to complete any of them.

As an indication of her fine performance she received the ASW "A" for the second year in a row along with the Green Operations "E". She was also first runnerup in the competition for the Squadron Battle Efficiency Award. Once again FRANK KNOX proved that she could live up to her motto of "CAN DO, AND DOES".

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